cations with a remote source, and for executing monetary charges according to the usage of the software comprising:

signal processing means for performing unique signal processing based on the input route of the software data; and

error processing means for conducting error processing based on the input route;

input switchover means for selecting an input route, said input switchover means comprising:

first switchover means for outputting encrypted and non-encrypted software data to said signal processing means and;

second switchover means for receiving the output from said signal processing means and directing the output of said signal processing means to said error processing means;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for managing monetary charges according to the usage of the software data;

data conversion means for converting decoded data outputted from said software management means to output data offered to the user; and

output route switchover means for receiving encrypted data from said input switchover means and outputting the encrypted data to said software management means, and for receiving non-encrypted software data from said input switchover means and outputting the non-encrypted software data to said data conversion section.

2. The software reproduction apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

drive apparatus for installing a writable medium;

writing means for writing on to said medium encrypted software data obtained from the said input route prior to its output to said software management means; and

a means for reading encrypted software data written on said medium.

3. The software reproduction apparatus of claim 1 wherein said error processing means is equipped with an error check code generation section for generating new error check codes corresponding to the said writable medium.

4. A software reproduction apparatus for reproducing encrypted or non-encrypted software data received via an input route including a writable medium, a non-writable medium and by communications with a remote source, and for executing monetary charges according to the usage of the software, the software reproduction apparatus comprising:

input switchover means for selecting an input route;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data using key data from an external source and for managing monetary charges according to the usage of the software data;

data conversion means for converting decoded data outputted from said software management means to output data offered to the user; and

output route switchover means for receiving encrypted data from said input switchover means and outputting the encrypted data to said software management means, for receiving the non-encrypted software data from said input switchover means and outputting the non-encrypted software data to said data conversion means, and for outputting the encrypted software data to a writable medium.

5. The software reproduction apparatus of claim 4 further comprising:

error management means equipped with an error check code generation section for generating new error check codes corresponding to the writable medium.

6. A software reproduction apparatus for reproducing encrypted or non-encrypted software data received via an input route including a storage medium and by communications with a remote source, and for executing monetary charges according to the usage of the software comprising:

input switchover means for selecting an input route according to the type of medium or communications;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for managing monetary charges according to the usage of the software data;

data conversion means for converting decoded data outputted from said software management means to output data for the user;

output route switchover means for receiving encrypted data from said input switchover means and outputting the encrypted data to said software management means, and for receiving non-encrypted software data from said input switchover means and outputting the non-encrypted software data for said data conversion section;

drive apparatus for installing a writable medium;

writing means for writing, on said medium, encrypted software data obtained from the said input route prior to the output of the encrypted software data to said software management means; and

a means for reading encrypted software data written on said medium.

7. A software reproduction apparatus for reproducing encrypted or non-encrypted software data received via an input route including a storage medium and by communications with a remote source, and for executing monetary charges according to the usage of the software comprising:

signal processing means for performing unique signal processing based on the input route of the software data; and

error processing means for conducting error processing based on the input route;

input switchover means for selecting an input route, said input switchover means comprising:

first switchover means for outputting encrypted and non-encrypted software data to said signal processing means and;

second switchover means for receiving the output from said signal processing means and directing the output of said signal processing means to said error processing means;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for managing monetary charges according to the usage of the software data;

data conversion means for converting decoded data outputted from said software management means to output data offered to the user;

output route switchover means for receiving encrypted data from said input switchover means and outputting the encrypted data to said software management means, and for receiving non-encrypted software data from said input switchover means and outputting the non-encrypted software data to said data conversion section;

drive apparatus for installing a writable medium;

writing means for writing on said writable medium encrypted software data obtained from the said input route prior to its output to said software management means; and

a means for reading encrypted software data written on said medium.

* * * * *

8.   An apparatus comprising:
digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via a communication medium;
drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a removable storage medium;
information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital information receiving means and digital information read by said drive means into at least one of the group consisting of visible and audible data; and
switch means for controlling a connection between said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, between said digital information receiving means and said drive means, and between said drive means and said information converting means.

9.   The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:
deciphering means
for deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiving means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting, and
for deciphering digital information read by said drive means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting.

10.   The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:
billing managing means
for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said digital information receiving means, and
for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive means.

11. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said information converting means comprises:

extension means

for extending digital information received by said digital information receiving means when said digital information is compressed, and

for extending said digital information read by said drive means when said digital information is compressed.

12. An apparatus comprising:

a digital information receiver receiving digital information provided via a communication medium;

a drive device reading digital information from, and writing information to, a removable storage medium;

a converter converting digital information received by said digital information receiver and digital information read by said drive device into at least one of the group consisting of visible and audible data; and

a switch controlling a connection between said digital information receiver and said converter, between said digital information receiver and said drive device, and between said drive device and said converter.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

a deciphering device

deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiver when the digital information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said converter, and

deciphering digital information read by said drive device when the digital information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said converter.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

a billing manager

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said digital information receiver, and

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive device.

15. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said converter comprises:

an extender

extending digital information received by said digital information receiver when said digital information is compressed, and

extending said digital information read by said drive device when said digital information is compressed.

16. An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing digital data;

a storage medium storing digital data;

a converter converting digital data into at least one of the group consisting of visible and audible data; and

a switch having

a first switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the converter so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of the group consisting of visible and audible data,

a second switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to the converter so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of the group consisting of visible and audible data, and

a third switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium.

17. The apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:

a deciphering device which,

when the switch is in the first switch position and the digital data provided by the communication path is ciphered, deciphers the digital data before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data, and,

when the switch is in the second position and the digital data read from the storage medium is ciphered, deciphers the digital data read from the storage medium before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data.

18. The apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:

a billing manager managing billing based on a utilization of digital data provided by the communication path, and managing billing based on a utilization of digital data read from the storage medium.

19. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the converter comprises:

an extender extending digital data provided by the communication path when the digital data is compressed, and extending digital data read from the storage medium when digital data is compressed.

20. An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing digital data;

a storage medium storing digital data;

a converter converting digital data into at least one of the group consisting of visible and audible data;

a decoder decoding encrypted digital data; and

a switch having

a first switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter without passing through the decoder so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of the group consisting of visible and

audible data,

a second switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter and the decoder so that the encrypted digital data is decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data is converted by the converter into at least one of the group consisting of visible and audible data,

a third switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter without passing through the decoder so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of the group consisting of visible and audible data,

a fourth switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter and the decoder so that the encrypted digital data is decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data is converted by the converter into at least one of the group consisting of visible and audible data, and

a fifth switch configuration which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium.

21.   A switch comprising:
a first switch position which connects digital data provided by a communication path to a converter that converters converts the digital data into at least one of the group consisting of visible and audible data;

a second switch position which connects digital data read from a storage medium to the converter so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of the group consisting of visible and audible data; and

a third switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to

the storage medium so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium.

22.   An apparatus comprising:
a first means which connects digital data provided by a communication path to a converter that converters converts the digital data into at least one of the group consisting of visible and audible data;
a second means which connects digital data read from a storage medium to the converter so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of the group consisting of visible and audible data; and
a third means which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium.